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Average Energy Prices In Boston-Brockton-Nashua – April 2015

Boston area households paid an average of \$2.411 a gallon for gasoline in April 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that this was nearly \$1.19 below the April 2014 price of \$3.597 per gallon. In contrast to gasoline prices, the average cost of electricity at 22.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in April 2015 was up from 17.5 cents per kWh spent last year. Utility (piped) gas prices averaged \$1.217 per therm in the Boston area in April 2015. Area natural gas prices were down from one year ago when they averaged \$1.532 per therm. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.411 the price of a gallon of gasoline in the Boston area was 5.3 percent lower than the national average of \$2.545 in April 2015. One year ago, the local price of gasoline at \$3.597 per gallon was similar to the national average of \$3.717. (See chart 1.)

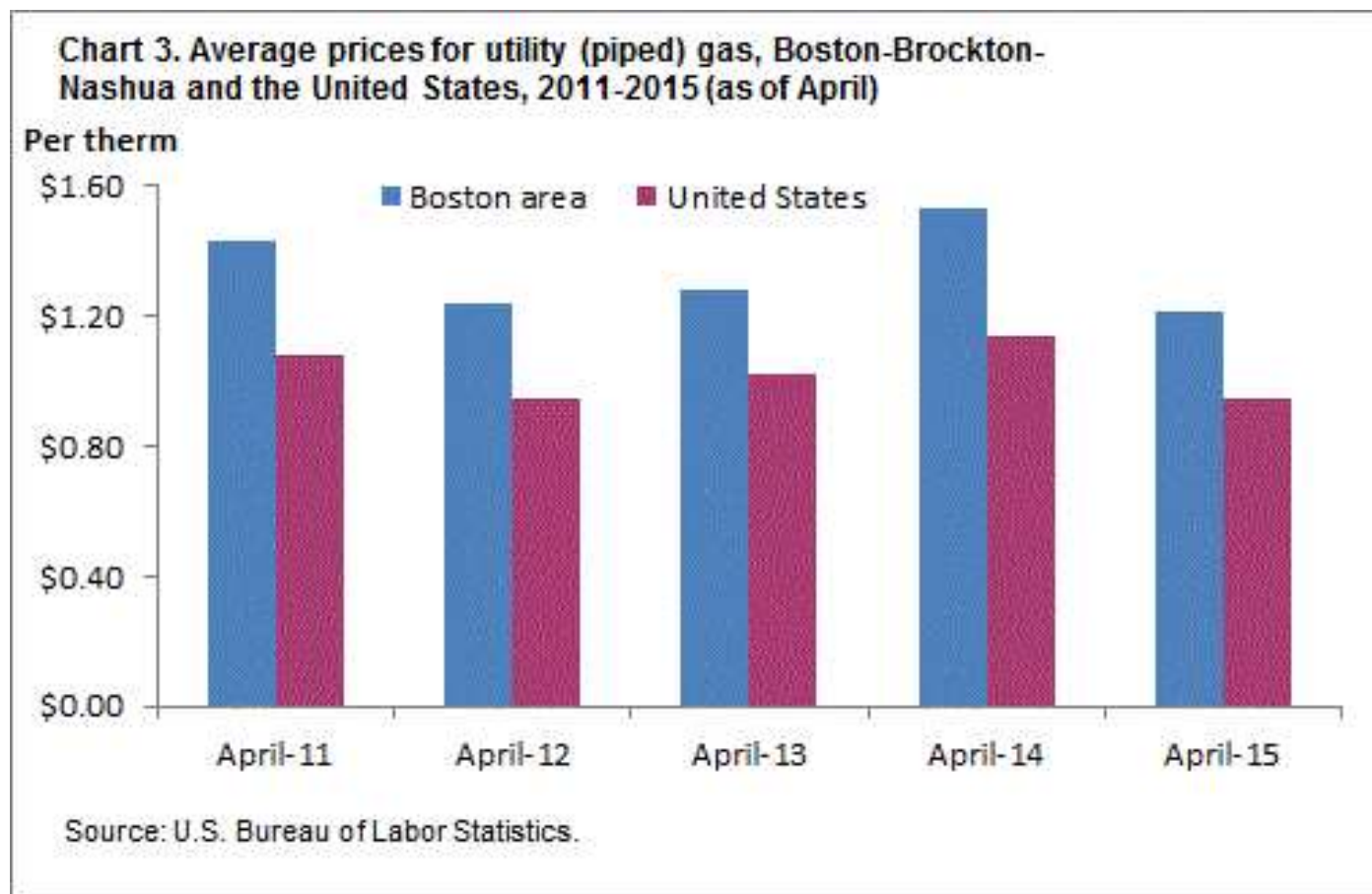
The 22.5 cents per kWh Boston households paid for electricity in April 2015 was 64.2 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last April, electricity costs were 33.6 percent higher in Boston compared to the nation. In each of the last five years, the price of electricity in Boston has exceeded that for the nation in the month of April, by 19 percent or more. (See chart 2.)

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Boston-Brockton-Nashua and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of April)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Boston area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.217 per therm, 28.5 percent above the national average in April 2015 (\$0.947 per therm). In April of 2014 local prices were 34.7 percent greater than those of the nation. Households in the Boston area have paid 26 percent or more than the national average for natural gas in the month of April in each of the last five years. (See chart 3.)



The Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn. consolidated area consists of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties and parts of Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts; parts of Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire; part of York County in Maine; and part of Windham County in Connecticut.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Boston-Brockton-Nashua and the United States, April 2014 - April 2015, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline, all types, per gallon		Electricity per kilowatt hour		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Boston area	United States	Boston area	United States	Boston area	United States
2014.....						
April.....	3.597	3.717	0.175	0.131	1.532	1.137
May.....	3.701	3.745	0.167	0.136	1.108	1.111
June.....	3.699	3.750	0.169	0.143	1.108	1.088
July.....	3.699	3.690	0.169	0.143	1.107	1.093
August.....	3.547	3.540	0.169	0.143	1.084	1.060
September.....	3.476	3.463	0.169	0.141	1.024	1.058
October.....	3.285	3.241	0.167	0.136	0.994	1.033
November.....	3.011	2.945	0.203	0.134	1.432	1.035
December.....	2.785	2.618	0.203	0.135	1.432	1.060
2015.....						
January.....	2.297	2.170	0.225	0.138	1.384	1.036
February.....	2.255	2.308	0.225	0.138	1.303	1.007
March.....	2.437	2.544	0.226	0.136	1.216	0.985
April.....	2.411	2.545	0.225	0.137	1.217	0.947